

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 /016 W
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R 090944Z AUG 76
FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
TO USDOC WASHDC
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1630

UNCLAS NAIROBI 8346

FOR: BIC/OIM/CMM KENYA SALLY MILLER

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJ: ELECTRICAL GENERATING EQUIPMENT - SOLAR POWERED

REF: NAIROBI 8340

1. THE CHAIRMAN, EAST AFRICAN POWER & LIGHTING CO, RECENTLY ANNOUNCED THAT PLANS HAVE BEEN FINALIZED AND WORK WILL SOON START ON ELECTRIFICATION PROJECTS IN SEVERAL REMOTE TOWNS. ONE PROJECT WAS SAID TO INVOLVE INTRODUCTION OF A SOLAR HEAT SYSTEM.

2. ANNOUNCEMENT SHOULD BE DISCOUNTED. EXACT DEGREE OF GOK SUPPORT FOR THESE PROJECTS IS UNKNOWN.

3. THERE IS KEEN INTEREST IN SOLAR POWER AS ALTERNATIVE TO CONVENTIONAL GENERATING EQUIPMENT FOR THESE PROJECTS. FUEL TRANSPORT TO REMOTE AREAS IS DIFFICULT AND ADDITIONAL PETROLEIUM PURCHASES FURTHER TAX FOREIGN CURRENCY RESERVES. SOLLAR INSTALLATIONS, EVEN AT THREE OR FOUR TIMES COST OF DIESEL EQUIVALENT, WOULD APPARANTLY BE SERIOUSLY CONSIDERED.

4. A GOV SOURCE REPORTS THREE, POSSIBLY MORE, SITES ARE DEFINITE PROSPECTS FOR APPROXIMATELY 100 KILOWATT INSTALLATIONS. THREE OR MORE OTHER SITES ARE PROSPECTS FOR SOLAR OR SOLAR-SUPPLEMENTED INSTALLATIONS OF GREATER CAPACITY.

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5. CHIEF DIFFICULTIEW, AT THE MOMENT, APPEAR TO BE LACK OF

KNOWLEDGE ABOUT TECHNICAL FEASIBILITY AND COST.

6. PUBLICATION OF THIS OPPORTUNITY IS NOT WARRANTED, NOR
ADVISABLE, AT PRESENT. NEED FOR ADDITIONAL ACTION CAN BE
DETERMINED AFTER GENERAL INFORMATION ON FESABILITY AND
COST IS OBTAINED.

MARSHALL

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NNN

Message Attributes

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